[24th August 1925

The Chingleput Leper Settlement.

* 344 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to refer to the answer given to question No. 649 on 24th March 1925, pages 622 and 690 of volume XXIII of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council in connexion with the Chingleput Leper Settlement, and to state—

(*a*) what has been spent up to date and what is proposed to be spent hereafter on the buildings (i) for housing and treating the lepers themselves, (ii) for the nursing staff, (iii) for the doctors, (iv) for the Superintendent and Managers, (v) for any other purpose ;

(*b*) to whom Government have entrusted (i) the management and supervision of the settlement, (ii) their medical treatment, (iii) the nursing of the lepers ;

(*c*) whether the Mother Provincial of the Franciscan Sisters was asked as to at what cost she would be willing and able to undertake those functions and at what annual cost ;

(*d*) what amounts the other agency or agencies have been promised to be paid for carrying out those several functions ; and

(*e*) what will be the increased cost to Government by entrusting the management, medical treatment and nursing to any other agency than the Franciscan Sisters?

A.—(*a*) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) & (v) The hon. Member is referred to [a] G.O. No. 936 W., dated 4th July 1925, placed on the table. Information regarding the expenditure incurred up to date is not readily available.

(*b*) (i) The Government have entrusted the management of the Settlement to the authorities of the United Free Church of Scotland Mission. As regards supervision, the Government have stipulated that a board of visitors should be appointed with power to inspect the settlement as often as deemed necessary. The institution shall also be open to inspection by Government officers such as the Surgeon-General, the Collector of the district, the District Medical Officer and any other officer who may be specially deputed by the Government.

(ii) & (iii) The medical treatment and the nursing of the lepers are entrusted to the staff employed by the Mission.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative.

(*d*) The hon. Member is referred to G.O. No. 892, P.H., dated 27th April 1925, placed on the table with reference to clause (*g*) of the answer to question No. 343.

(*e*) It is not possible to institute a comparison because in the case of the Franciscan Sisters the proposal was confined only to nursing arrangements and minor duties, while in the case of the other agency it relates to the entire management of the settlement.

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[a] Printed as Appendix III on pages 641–642 infra.